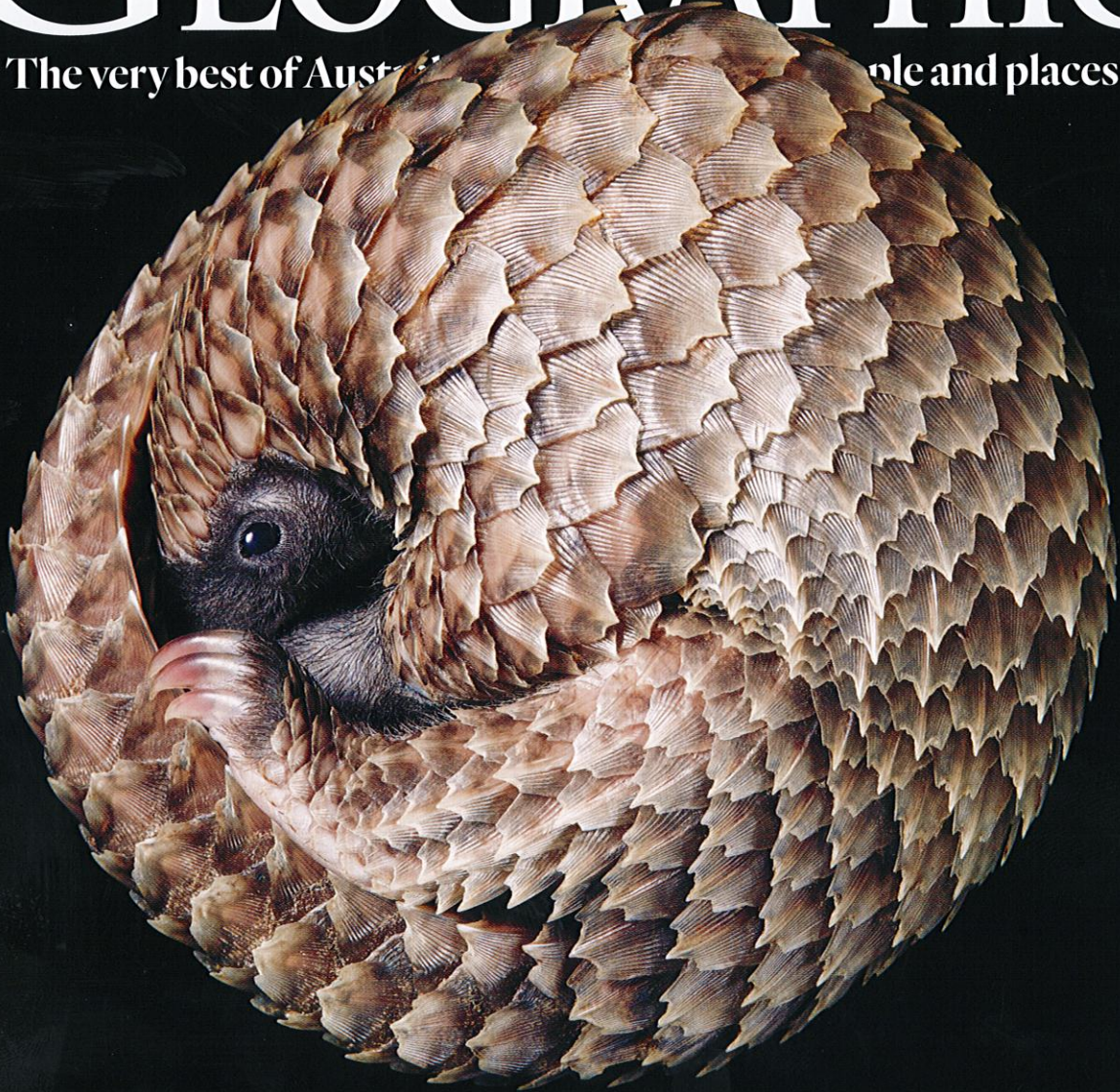


Australian GEOGRAPHIC

The very best of Australia's people and places



World's most hunted

Aussie scientists take on the wildlife poachers

July-August 2018

\$14.95



Urban wilderness

The remarkable life beneath Sydney's waters

Age of enlightenment
Captain Cook's botanist

Back in fashion

Australian wool leads the way

Science Week events

All things science will be celebrated across Australia from 11 to 19 August. Find out more about what's happening near you at the Science Week website.

scienceweek.net.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Future Climate and Food in WA

WHERE: Baskerville Hall, Baskerville

WHEN: 11 August

Discover what WA's changing climate means for food production, availability and quality, how local producers are responding and how supermarket shelves will look in 2050.



TASMANIA

Open Day at the Telescope & Grote Reber Museum

WHERE: Mt Pleasant Radio Telescope & Grote Reber Museum, Cambridge

WHEN: 19 August

Learn about the science of radio astronomy, take a tour of the facility and experience the Telescope Control Room during this open-day event.

VICTORIA

Science in the Park: Wildlife Counts

WHERE: Coolart Wetlands and Homestead, Somers

WHEN: 12 August

Get your science head on and visit Science in the Park for a spot of frog-calling, birdwatching and koala-spotting mixed with hands-on science activities.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

HealthLAB at Parliament House

WHERE: Parliament House, Darwin

WHEN: 14 August

The Menzies School of Health Research HealthLAB

brings biomedical technology to

Parliament House

to show people what's under their

skin (left) and give them a

chance to take and understand

their own health measurements.



ACT

Make Your Own Cheeky Neuron at Science in Action

WHERE: The Bus Depot Markets, Kingston

WHEN: 10–11 August

Learn about the brain from Nix & Nellie the Cheeky Neurons – then make your own neuron to take home.

Diamond firetail



often deliberately because people don't recognise they are native rats rather than introduced sewer rats. Many animals also drown as bycatch in traps or nets set for fish or crustaceans. Studies carried out in Western Australia and Victoria found more than 40 per cent of reported rakali deaths involved animals drowning in nets known as opera house traps set for marron or yabbies.

The Australian Platypus Conservancy (APC) conducted a community-based survey in 2017 of rakali in Victoria to improve understanding of the species' status. This achieved a 74 per cent increase in modern Victorian data on the species. Interestingly, the animal appears to thrive in many artificial water bodies, suggesting opportunities to create new rakali habitat when urban lakes or wetlands are developed. Management authorities are also being encouraged to retain existing habitat when lakes or channels need to be modified.

The APC is conducting a similar survey in the ACT in 2018–19. It'll be launched with a public talk at the Australian National University's Slayter Seminar Room on 2 August. All data collected will be shared with Canberra Nature Map and the Atlas of Living Australia to ensure it's publicly accessible. Other talks and rakali-spotting sessions will be held to build public awareness about rakalis and encourage people to watch for them and report sightings.

▶ **FOR MORE INFORMATION** on the rakali, visit backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/water-rat